

**7th Grade Life Science Syllabus  
2017-2018  
Caroline Middle School  
Mrs. Ellis**

Welcome to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade! In order to help you get off to a smooth beginning, I want to share the following information with you.

Course Overview:

Seventh grade students will study the structure and function of living things. Topics will include cells, cell division and processes, genetics, evolution, classification, animal and plant behavior, cycles in nature, relationships among populations, biomes, and ecosystem dynamics. An emphasis on the process of scientific investigation is continued in 7<sup>th</sup> grade science. This includes the generation and testing of ideas, prediction, measurement, data collection and reporting, collaboration, interpretation and communication of results, evaluation, summarization, and the examination of the application and relevance of scientific research. It is intended that students will actively develop scientific investigation, reasoning, and logic skills through the study of life science concepts. I use project based and student centered learning that includes daily hands on learning and working in a team to complete a task. This course will be all school year for 60 minutes each school day.

Each class will have computer access daily as we will be piloting the digital conversion in this class this year. Please be sure to turn in and look over the acceptable use policy in the student handbook.

Concepts and Skills

Throughout the year we will focus on a variety of concepts that are not only important in science, but have life skills applications as well.

- Organizing information
- Thinking Critically
- Using the scientific process
- Representing and applying data
- Measuring in SI (Metrics)
- Classifying and sequencing
- Making and using charts, tables and graphs
- Using technology in a meaningful way

Teacher/Academic Behavioral Expectations

- Students are expected to be prepared for class with all necessary materials.
- Students should be respectful, polite, and considerate of others and others property.
- Students should be willing to participate in class in an appropriate manner raising his/her hand, refraining from blurting out, staying focused and on task, sharing relevant material/ideas.
- Students should complete all assignments in a timely manner.
- Students will be completing labs, projects, and using hands on manipulatives where they are expected to participate, follow directions, and respect safety guidelines and equipment.
- All student assignments should be brought to class in a neat and organized manner.
- Students are expected to abide by all rules outlined in the student handbook.
- Students are responsible for taking care of all classroom materials and chromebooks. Parents will be notified of any damage.

### Consequences for not following classroom expectations

- 1st offense: quick redirection from teacher
- 2nd offense: quick 1 on 1 meeting with teacher with a call home to parent
- 3rd offense: call home to parent and a minor referral will be written where administration will be notified.
- Continued or major infraction (see code of conduct): a major referral will be issued and administration will be notified

### Positives for following directions

- Homework passes, sit with a friend at lunch pass, positive office referrals, and talon tickets (these are used like money for the student to purchase things at the talon store provided by the school)

### Important Links

- VA DOE standards:  
[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards\\_docs/science/courses/stds\\_life\\_sci.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/science/courses/stds_life_sci.pdf)
- Mrs. Ellis's blog: <http://kellis.blogs.ccps.us/>

### Teacher Contact Information

- Email: [kellis@ccps.us](mailto:kellis@ccps.us)
- Email is the best way to get in touch with me :) It comes directly to my phone as well.
- Caroline Middle School phone #: (804) 633-6561
- I have planning during 5th and 6th block (12:24-1:55) and am usually at school until 4p.m. but may be in meetings and such so may be unavailable.
- Remind.com Any important information will be sent through this as well. The sign up instructions are on the attached page.

### Class Supply List

- Composition Notebook (we will be doing interactive notebooks this year)
- Scissors
- Glue (multiple sticks)
- Colors (markers, crayons, or colored pencils)
- Pencils
- Ruler
- Highlighter
- Headphones/earbuds (because we are piloting the digital conversion many of the assignments and activities will be completed on the computer)

### Science Fee

- \$5.00 science fee- this is to help in purchasing lab and project supplies

Donations (not required but these are things that we use all year and can be turned in at any time throughout the year :))

- Tissues
- Germ-x
- Ziplock baggies (large and small)
- Lysol wipes
- Latex free gloves
- Any craft like items
- Construction paper

- Colored computer paper

### Homework and Assignments

- Homework will be assigned every Monday and will be due on Thursday.
- Any assignment or project will be posted on my blog ([kellis.blogs.ccps.us](http://kellis.blogs.ccps.us)) and sent through remind.com

### Projects

- Students will be completing multiple in class projects where all work will be completed at school unless something needs to be finished.
- Students will also have at least 1 at home project each quarter. This will be posted on my blog and through remind.com as well as through the student when the time gets closer to assign each project. Normally students will have 2 weeks or more to complete these at home projects.
- Projects are worth a test grade

### Quizzes and Tests

- Quizzes are given once a week (usually on Thursday)
- These are short 10-15 question quizzes used to see where students are at in learning the material.
- Tests are usually given once a quarter along with a Benchmark exam. Students will be given a study guide 1 week in advance to the test.
- Tests will usually be given on Fridays and on the week a test is given there will not be a quiz.

### Classroom Procedures

- Students are required to sit in assigned seats and immediately begin working on the warm-up as soon as they enter the class
- Restrooms: must go during class change or during independent work time (not the first or last 15 minutes) Students must also have an agenda or the pass to leave the classroom. If a student loses the agenda or pass a new one can be purchased.
- Students are not allowed to have food, candy, or drink (water is acceptable).
- If a student misses a day, all work missed will be placed into a bin with their name on it for them to make up. Students must check this box themselves and get the work turned in. This work will not be counted late unless it is past the extra time given (usually a week but depends on circumstances)
- Late work (not from a student who was absent): Each day the work is late 5 points will be taken off.

### Extra help

- On my blog ([kellis.blogs.ccps.us](http://kellis.blogs.ccps.us)) there are several websites and activities under websites and helpful places, where a student can go if they need to practice certain concepts.
- Parents and students can also email me ([kellis@ccps.us](mailto:kellis@ccps.us)) with any questions or concerns.

I look forward to a great and exciting year!!!

Sincerely,

Kristy Ellis  
Science 7  
Science Content Liaison  
Caroline Middle School

### Grading Scale

Tests/Projects= 40%  
Quizzes/Labs= 30%  
Classwork= 20%  
Homework= 10%

